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OSHA Requirements

The need for establishment of a visual open is addressed in the federal OSHA electric industry standards of Section 1910.269 (w) (7) and (m) (3) (ii). These state as follows:

Subsection (w) (7): "Backfeed. If there is a possibility of voltage backfeed from sources of cogeneration or from the secondary system (for example, backfeed from more than one energized phase feeding a common load), the requirements of paragraph (l) of this section apply if the lines or equipment are to be worked as energized, and the requirements of (m) and (n) of this section apply if the line or equipment are to be worked as deenergized." *Subsection (m) (3) (ii):* ("All switches, disconnectors, jumpers, taps, and other means through which known sources of electric energy may be supplied to the particular lines and equipment to be deenergized shall be opened. Such means shall be rendered inoperable, unless its design does not so permit, and tagged to indicate that employees are at work.")